

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day

"The Faithful Witness"



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Jordan Johnson will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**, **Paul McCollum** will present the **Lesson**.

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

may God bless their efforts!

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass;...

Revelation 1:1

We are praying for you!

Raymond Elliott - for recovery from the heart issue he has suffered.

Cindy and David Brown - for God's comfort and the doctors healing David's serious rash on his back.

Disaster Relief Fund - for continued resorces to help those affected by natural disasters.

The Lord's Church - for sharing the Word and being a living example.

God's Blessings to Everyone!

Taking It with You

Ed Benesh

So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 NKJV)

We have gotten better at death! Maybe it is just my opinion, but today we handle the reality of a loved one passing in a more sophisticated, mature and intellectual way. If you look back on history, you will find death attended by many odd practices that amount to little more than superstition, faulty religious beliefs or misconceived science.

For instance, have you ever wondered why we can dig in the earth at the sites of ancient burial grounds and find many valuable, ancient artifacts, including vast treasure troves of kings? On some level, those ancients believed that one could take these items with them. Yet, here they are now resting in some museum behind a wall of glass, the owner deceased and gone for thousands of years. Guess they got that one wrong. Perhaps this is why cremation in our day has become so popular, whether you believe in such a practice or not. Maybe folks are finally getting it – you can't take it with you. You came here from the dust, naked and without possessions. To that state, you will return.

It should be said, however, that it seems we may be turning back to the treasure trove tomb mentality. Have you heard about some of the custom caskets out there? If your loved one was a die-hard sports fan, then he can get his casket (for a much higher price) emblazoned with his team's insignia and logos. Maybe your family member loved motorcycles. Never fear. You can get one complete with foot pegs for carrying handles, pictures of bikes and even some cool, custom chrome to match. One has to wonder what folks will think a few thousand years from now (if God lets us go on that long) when people find these things.

There is, however, a treasure you can lay up in eternity. Christ spoke of it when he said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44 NKJV). It is a one-verse parable that is designed to teach what man has taken many years to figure out. You can't take it with you, but you can use what you have to purchase what will last. Oh! We cannot purchase salvation. It is God's gift. Yet, that does not negate the fact that we must give our all to gain it.

Ask yourself, "Where is my treasure?" As Christ said, once you find that place, then you will know where your heart's devotion is. Is it in this world only, or are you willing to let it go for eternal glory?

Restoring the Lost

Eddie Cooper

I've been preaching nearly 60 years, and there is something that really concerns me. It is that those who were once faithful preachers, elders, deacons and other members have left the church for various reasons.

When meeting with them, they respond, "I know what I should do." I've often said, "If you know what to do, why not do it?" Then, silence. We are aware they know what to do because many were members for years, and many individuals were brought up in the church. What happened along the way? Who is responsible for their condition now? They are, of course. The blame game will not work, but we that are faithful still have a responsibility to them based on Galatians 6:1. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (NKJV).

Regardless of discouragements, disappointments, hardships or lack of love from brethren, don't take it out on God. He is not to blame.

Remember, there are many who have in the past and now care about your soul. Think of your parents who loved you, supported you and gave guidance throughout your life. If you remain unfaithful, you will neither see them again nor see all the redeemed of the ages.

Don't turn your back on the One Who saved you by sending His Son to die for you. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

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Be Like Peter

Thomas Baxley

What comes to mind when you think about Peter? Do you associate him with his lows or his highs? Jesus did have to pull him out of the water, but never forget that Peter actually had the faith and the courage to step out of the boat in the first place (Matthew 14:28-29)! Peter did deny Jesus three times, but he was able to bounce back, and he is the one recorded doing the majority of the preaching in the first few chapters of Acts, including preaching to the very crowd that crucified Jesus (Acts 2)! I want to be more like Peter. There are things I want to accomplish and steps I need to take that are outside of my comfort zone; I want to have his faith, boldness and courage. I know that things will not always go as planned, and there will be times I fall on my face. I also want his ability to bounce back after failures and defeats. I want to meet life head on and succeed. I want to be a little more like Peter.

December 11, 2022



This Is My Father's World...

Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

Wednesday (via Zoom) Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm

church of Christ at Alisal

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